

# THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Luke 5:17-26 & Matthew 18:21-22

## Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- When you recite the Apostles' Creed and say "I believe in the forgiveness of sins," what are you professing to believe? What does this phrase mean to you?
- Is it necessary to forgive others? Why or why not? Is there someone you're struggling to forgive?

Messages in culture tell us to hide our flaws and only show our good side. Yet as Christians we do not need to be afraid of the seedy underbelly of our human nature. Why? Because every time Christians recite the Apostle's Creed, we acknowledge our state as sinners when we profess that we "believe in the forgiveness of sins." Together, let's discuss what this particular belief means, why it is so life changing, and just how it relates to the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

## Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, Sue Rozeboom notes that God knows us better than we know ourselves and invites us to unload our burdens on him. What does it mean to you that God offers us forgiveness even before we realize we need it?
- Can you recall a time in your life when God answered your prayers by addressing a deeper need first, like when Jesus forgives the paralyzed man's sins then answers the obvious prayer and heals his legs?
- In the opening of segment 3, Scott Hoezee observes that in Psalm 51 David indicates that forgiveness should also bring personal change. Can you identify areas in your life where forgiveness has caused change in you? How is God challenging you to change in other areas for which you've been forgiven?
- In Segment 3, Scott talks about the image of Christ being renewed in us when we are forgiven. He says "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us. Somebody once noted that that little particle, as, is one of the most daunting words in the whole Bible because it reminds us there is a connection between what Jesus did for us and what we are now to do for others." How much thought have you given to that connection? Do you think your willingness to forgive is an accurate reflection of Jesus Christ?

## Related Passages

- **Psalm 51**
- **Psalm 103**
- **Micah 7:18-19**
- **2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

- **Romans 8:1-4**

## **Conclusion**

Reflect on the words of David in Psalm 51 or Psalm 103. Incorporate these biblical words into prayers of your own as you seek God's forgiveness for your sins, thank him for his mercy and grace, and ask for the guidance, help, and power of the Holy Spirit in forgiving people in your life as God in Christ has forgiven you.

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